

Testimony of  
**Annmarie Gieparda**

**Greenwich Educator**

Before the  
Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I agree with and support all of the details in the Bill 6884. As a veteran educator I feel strongly about the importance of retaining and recruiting new teachers to the profession. The minimum salary is critical for new teachers who have families to support. We want more and more students to want to become teachers. The biggest part of this bill that is one of the most important parts is the COVID Benefit Enhancement. I feel there needs to be some incentive provided to teachers who worked through the pandemic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

